



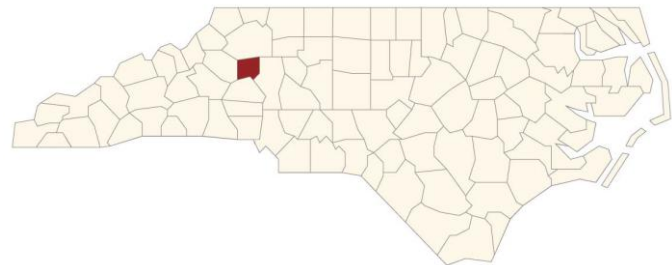
On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. ARRA provides increased support to several existing federal programs administered by states, creates new programs such as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, and offers opportunities for states to apply for competitive grant programs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's significant investment in North Carolina totaled almost \$19.5 billion, including assistance for those needing help the most through increases in unemployment benefits, Medicaid payments, and food stamps. In addition to those expanded services, ARRA gives hundreds of thousands of working North Carolinians a break through tax credits like the *Making Work Pay* tax credit and the *First Time Homebuyer's* tax credit.

The Recovery Act is not like earlier attempts to revive the nation's economy. It is not only a one-time infusion of federal funds; instead it is a long-term effort to restore economic expansion in the short-term, as well as prepare the nation's economy for stable, healthy long-term growth. Under the terms of the Recovery Act, support for North Carolina's economy will include both investments made directly by the federal government and investments of federal funds that are made under the oversight of the North Carolina state government.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report, Alexander County

Alexander County received more than \$37 million in ARRA funding in grants, loans, and bonds. The following report outlines the various funding categories that contributed to the Alexander County total.



Public Safety:
2.4 million



Small Business Jobs:
10

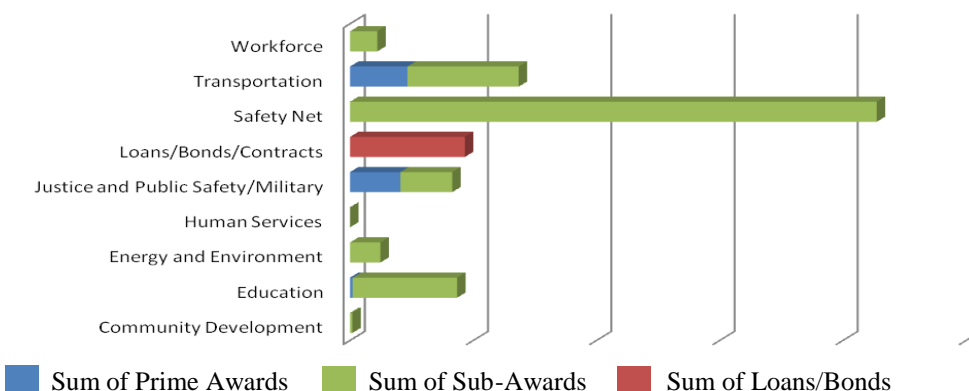


Appliances rebated:
75



Family homes financed:
37

Alexander County Totals



Alexander County,
Pop 33,603 at a glance:

Recovery Act Totals:
Grants: \$32,397,113.25
Loans: \$4,659,058.00
Total: \$37,056,171.25



Education

The Recovery Act placed a special emphasis on maintaining education funding. Governor Beverly Perdue furthered this commitment by pledging additional recovery funds from the Recovery Act to education, and leading North Carolina to additional funds by winning \$400 million in the Race to the Top program.

Most of the ARRA education funds are distributed to local schools through existing funding formulas. Special Education Funds and Title I funds go to schools based on eligible student enrollment. State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) and the EduJobs grants were designed to hold schools harmless during the recession, and were distributed to public and charter schools. The school systems have spent the majority of the funds on staff and support. Some projects, such as Race to the Top, will be spent for purchasing products and services rather than salaries for staff.

Authorization for low/no interest bonds for school construction/renovation followed the Department of Public Instruction procedures with initial allotments to the school systems. If a school system could not utilize their allotment, it was released to other school systems that could utilize additional allotments.

Alexander County schools received \$5 million in education funding, including \$1.1 million in Special Education funds, \$500,000 in Title I funds, \$3 million in SFSF funds, and \$400,000 in Race to the Top funding.



Family Assistance

The Federal Department of Agriculture increased funding to their Single-Family home program with the ARRA. These resources assisted families in achieving the American Dream of home ownership through direct financial assistance (grants) or credit (loan guarantees). This program pumped more than \$729 million into North Carolina, providing assistance to more than 5,400 families.

In Alexander County, 37 families received assistance through this program totaling more than \$4.5 million.

The Department of Energy created the Energy Star Appliance rebate program to help stimulate the economy by incentivizing the purchase of new, more energy efficient appliances, and helping consumers by providing long-term savings from their utility bills. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce managed the program insuring North Carolina residents and retailers received the maximum benefit from this opportunity. North Carolina retailers sold more than 25,500 new energy efficiency appliances through this program, and North Carolina residents will enjoy energy savings for years to come. The program was so successful, that the State Energy Office reprogrammed additional funding to provide discounts to everyone participating in the program, bringing the total program value from \$8 up to \$10 Million.

Alexander County retailers sold 75 appliances through the Energy Star Appliance rebate program.



Small Businesses Assistance

The ARRA provided tax breaks, increased depreciation of business assets, and incentives for hiring for small businesses through the tax law changes found in Part B of the Act. The Recovery Act also established direct aid programs through the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA). These programs provided grants, loans and loan guarantees to grant small businesses access to much-needed operational credit during 2009 and 2010.

In Alexander County 2 small businesses received SBA loan guarantees worth \$2.2 million. According to the small businesses receiving these loans, the Recovery Act saved or created 10 jobs.



Farm Assistance

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program is administered by the Farm Services Administration in the federal Department of Agriculture, which provides assistance to farmers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters. To qualify for the program a farm must have lost at least 10% of one crop during a natural disaster in a declared disaster county, or lost 50% of a crop during a disaster in a non-disaster county. North Carolina farmers received more than \$9 million in total payments under the ARRA-Funded SURE Program.

In Alamance County, \$13,545 was received in assistance to farmers because of crop loss to natural disasters.



Environment and Natural Resources Programs

ARRA funded several programs to protect the environment, or to develop natural resources more efficiently. These programs ranged from environmental clean-up, such as leaking underground storage tank abatement and Brownfields programs, to EPA clean air grants, wildfire prevention grants, and revolving funds to build, expand, or overhaul existing water and sewer programs. These programs provided nearly \$150 million across North Carolina.

In Alexander County, 2 water and sewer grants were awarded, totally more than \$1.2 million.



Justice and Public Safety Programs

ARRA increased funding to the federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program (JAG). JAG funds were awarded both as a formula allocation to the State, for \$34.5 million, and grants distributed by the Governor's Crime Commission to various local governments and entities. In addition, \$21,853,798 went to 216 local governments across the state for various purposes in line with the requirements of the act. Finally, there is a federal competitive portion that was open to state or local government applicants.

Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established the ARRA Firestation Construction Grant (FSG). The program was a national competitive program designed to improve firefighter safety and response capability/capacity based on need through the construction, renovation, or modification of fire stations.

In Alexander County, 2 JAG awards were made, one through the competitive program, and one through the Governor's Crime Commission. The grants were worth more than \$55,000. In addition, Alexander County received one FSG award for more than \$2 million.



Safety Net Programs

Safety net programs are the category of ARRA funding that consists of programs designed to help populations made particularly vulnerable by the economic crisis. These generally include increases in existing programs, most notably the increase in both benefit level and duration of unemployment payments. Increases in the amount and duration of unemployment payments makes up the largest chunk of safety net programs funded through the Recovery Act, totaling more than \$3.5 billion statewide over more than two years. Safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps), not only benefit the recipient, but have a proven economic impact on a community.

Alexander County residents received more than \$17.5 Million in Unemployment Insurance increases during the 2 ½ year ARRA benefits increase. County residents also received \$2.2 Million in SNAP benefit increases, and \$1.6 million in one-time payments of \$250 to social security recipients.

Additionally, Alexander County received more than \$100,000 for Head Start Programs.

Alexander County Feature Story

Alexander County fights fire with new Bethlehem Fire Station

The Recovery Act provided more than \$3 billion to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and General Services Administration (GSA) in support of homeland security programs. Of that amount, more than \$210 million went to DHS, who established the ARRA Firestation Construction (FSC) Grant program to enhance the safety of rural communities.

“America’s firefighters play a critical role in disaster prevention and response,” said DHS Secretary Napolitano. “These Recovery Act-funded fire station construction projects and upgrades will strengthen community preparedness and the nation’s emergency response capabilities.” The Bethlehem Fire Department was awarded more than \$2 million in ARRA Firestation Construction (FSC) Grant funds to build a long-awaited fire station.

The Bethlehem Fire Department, established in 1962, is an all-volunteer firefighting force. The Department has a potential roster of 35 firemen, and runs an average of 150 fire calls and 140 medical calls each year. The members spend an average of about 2,000 hours as a department, in training yearly.

The Department contracts with Alexander County to provide fire protection for the residents of the town of Bethlehem and Alexander County. The Bethlehem Fire Department also contracts with Caldwell County to provide fire protection to a small number of residents. The Department also coordinates with four neighboring departments in Alexander and Caldwell County to respond to mutual fire and rescue aid calls.

The Bethlehem FSC Grant was selected through a competitive peer review process based on need to build new or modify existing fire stations in order to enhance response capabilities and protect communities from fire-related hazards.

The \$2 million grant more than doubles the existing Bethlehem Fire Department facility. The new construction will provide sleeping quarters for fire and rescue personnel, increase the drive-through bays from 1 to 5, and provide facilities for 10 vehicles, including a boat for Lake Hickory rescue calls.

The design work on the new facility has been completed as of the end of the second quarter of 2011. The contract for construction has been awarded, and construction of the new facility should begin soon.



Appendix, Alexander County breakout

Federal Agency	Program Title	Recipient name	Recipient role ⁱ	Prime Amount ⁱⁱ	Unique Sub Awards ⁱⁱⁱ	Loans	Additional Economic Activity (not counted toward totals) ^{iv}
	Bonds		P			\$0.00	
	Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans - Guaranteed	Individuals	L			\$4,629,058.00	
Administration for Children and Families	ARRA - Head Start	Alexander, County Of	P	\$64,644.00		\$0.00	\$64,644.00
		Carolina Office	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$1,200.00
		Carolina Thomas LLC	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$48,840.00
		Division Of Early Childhood	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$320.00
		Duke Energy	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$826.58
		Enola Group, The	P	\$41,865.00		\$0.00	\$41,865.00
		G & B Eneary	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$50.00
		Lackey Plumbing	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$2,948.42
Department of Agriculture	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Multiple Individuals	S		\$2,112,286.49		
Department of Health and Human Services	Aging Congregate Nutrition Services for States	Alexander County DSS	SV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Aging Home-Delivered Nutrition Services for States	Alexander County DSS	SV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Block Grants - State HI	Alexander, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	
Department of Justice	Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program / Grants To Units Of Local Government	Alexander, County Of	P	\$39,294.00		\$0.00	\$39,294.00
		Lawmen's Safety Supply Inc	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$11,781.37
		Motorola Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$11,133.76
		Operator Safety Solutions, LLC	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$1,800.00
		Protective	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$3,488.38

		Products International				
		Public Safety Specialists	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,320.00
	Recovery Act - Eward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program/ Grants to States and Territories	Taylorsville, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$18,311.89	\$0.00
Department of Labor	Unemployment Insurance	Multiple Individuals	S		\$17,585,723.87	
Environmental Protection Agency	Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds	Taylorsville, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$1,017,923.00	\$0.00
	Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	Taylorsville, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$204,000.00	\$0.00
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Assistance to Firefighters Grant (ARRA)	Bethlehem Community Volunteer Fire Department, Inc	P	\$2,008,515.00		\$0.00 \$2,008,515.00
Federal Highway Administration	Highway Planning and Construction	Maymead, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00 \$2,182,769.54
		North Carolina Department Of Transportation	P	\$2,332,896.00		\$0.00 \$2,332,896.00
Food and Nutrition Service	Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	Alexander, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$25,814.00	\$0.00
Idaho Operations Office	Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (EEARP)		P		\$10,325.00	\$0.00
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Education State Grants, Recovery Act	Alexander, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$3,035,847.00	\$0.00
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Race-to-the-Top Incentive Grants, Recovery Act	Alexander, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$409,423.00	\$0.00
	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Recovery Act	Alexander, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$563,237.00	\$0.00
Office of Special Education and	Special Education -	Alexander, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$43,524.00	\$0.00

Rehabilitative Services	Preschool Grants, Recovery Act					
	Special Education Grants to States, Recovery Act	Alexander, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$1,106,234.00	\$0.00
Small Business Administration	Loans	Clearwater Sales Inc	L			\$10,000.00
		Dillard Poultry	L			\$20,000.00
SSA	Social Security Economic Recovery Act Payments	Multiple Individuals	P		\$1,677,250.00	
Grand Total				\$4,487,214.00	\$27,909,899.25	\$4,659,058.00
						\$6,755,692.05

ⁱ Recipient Role are as follows: P is a prime recipient; S is a Sub-recipient; PV is a vendor to a prime recipient; SV is a vendor to a sub-recipient; L is a loan recipient.

ⁱⁱ Prime Amounts are unique prime awards within a county. These are entities who have received funding directly from a federal agency, and are required to report directly to www.federalreporting.gov

ⁱⁱⁱ Unique Sub Awards are amounts that flow into a county from a source that is NOT directly from a Federal Agency. Generally these are funds awarded to the North Carolina State Government that have been directed to a local source.

^{iv} Additional Economic Activity are economic activity attributable to a previous funding category. They may be a sub award by a prime recipient within a county, or a contract funded by one of the previous three columns. This economic activity is not counted toward the county total.